

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend Claims 1-20 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of reproducing a developing apparatus detachably attachable to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus main body, the developing apparatus being designed ~~and~~ for developing a latent image formed on an electrophotographic photosensitive member, ~~said~~ the developing apparatus having a developing member configured and positioned to develop ~~for developing~~ ~~said~~ the latent image formed on ~~said~~ the electrophotographic photosensitive member, a developer container having a developer containing part containing therein a developer to be used by ~~said~~ the developing member, and provided with a developer supplying opening for supplying the developer contained in ~~said~~ the developer containing part to ~~said~~ the developing member, a supporting member provided on a lengthwise end portion of ~~said~~ the developing apparatus configured and positioned to support ~~for supporting~~ ~~said~~ the developing member, and a developing frame body provided with a developer passing opening for passing therethrough the developer supplied from ~~said~~ the developer supplying opening, and having a joint portion to be joined to ~~said~~ the developer container, and a mounting portion configured and positioned to mount ~~for mounting~~ ~~said~~ the supporting member, ~~the~~ said method comprising:

a supporting member removing step of removing ~~said~~ the supporting member from ~~said~~ the developing frame body;

a developing frame body separating step of separating ~~said~~ the developer container and ~~said~~ the developing frame body from each other ~~in~~ at the joint portion, and at which at least

a portion of ~~said~~ the mounting portion is removed when ~~said~~ the developer container and ~~said~~ the developing frame body are separated from each other;

a sticking step of sticking a seal member ~~for closing~~ ~~said~~ on the developer supplying opening provided in ~~said~~ the developer container separated at said developing frame body separating step to close the developer supplying opening;

a developer refilling step of refilling ~~said~~ the developer containing part provided in ~~said~~ the developer container separated at said developing frame body separating step with the developer;

a developing frame body coupling step of coupling ~~said~~ the developer container and ~~said~~ the developing frame body separated at said developing frame body separating step together after said sticking step; and

a supporting member attaching step of attaching ~~said~~ the supporting member removed at said removing step onto at least one of ~~said~~ the developer container and ~~said~~ the developing frame body by the use of a coupling member.

2. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the developing frame body is joined to ~~said~~ the developer container ~~in~~ ~~said~~ at the joint portion by ultrasonic welding, and at said developing frame body separating step, ~~said~~ the developer container and ~~said~~ the developing frame body are separated from each other by the use of a cutter.

3. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the developing frame body is joined to ~~said~~ the developer container ~~in~~ ~~said~~ at the joint portion by ultrasonic

welding, and at said developing frame body separating step, ~~said~~ the developer container and ~~said~~ the developing frame body are separated from each other by the use of a laser.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein at said supporting member attaching step, ~~said~~ the coupling member is mounted with ~~said~~ the supporting member and ~~said~~ the developing frame body sandwiched thereby.

5. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein at said supporting member attaching step, ~~said~~ the coupling member is mounted with ~~said~~ the supporting member and ~~said~~ the developer container sandwiched thereby.

6. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 4 or 5, wherein ~~said~~ the coupling member is constituted by a U-shaped spring material.

7. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 6, wherein ~~said~~ the coupling member is constituted by a plate spring material.

8. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said~~ the mounting portion is a boss having a screw hole for attaching ~~said~~ the supporting member by a screw, and at said developing frame body separating step, a portion of ~~said~~ the boss is removed.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ supporting member has a driving force transmitting device configured and positioned to transmit means for transmitting a driving force to ~~said the~~ developing member, and at said supporting member removing step, ~~said the~~ supporting member is removed from ~~said the~~ developing frame body while holding ~~said the~~ driving force transmitting device means, and at said supporting member attaching step, ~~said the~~ supporting member is attached onto ~~said the~~ developing frame body while holding ~~said the~~ driving force transmitting device means.

10. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 1, wherein ~~said the~~ supporting member has a developing bias contact configured and positioned to contact ~~for contacting with~~ ~~said the~~ developing member and supply supplying a voltage to ~~said the~~ developing member, and at said supporting member removing step, ~~said the~~ supporting member is removed from ~~said the~~ developing frame body while holding ~~said the~~ developing bias contact, and at said supporting member attaching step, ~~said the~~ supporting member is attached onto ~~said the~~ developing frame body while holding ~~said the~~ developing bias contact.

11. (Currently Amended) A method of reproducing a process cartridge detachably attachable to an electrophotographic image forming apparatus main body, ~~said the~~ process cartridge having a developing member configured and positioned to develop ~~for developing~~ a latent image formed on an electrophotographic photosensitive member, ~~said electrophotographic photosensitive member~~, a developer container having a developer containing part containing therein a developer to be used by ~~said the~~ developing member, and provided with a developer

supplying opening for supplying the developer contained in ~~said~~ the developer containing part to ~~said~~ the developing member, a supporting member provided on a lengthwise end portion of ~~said~~ the process cartridge and configured and positioned to support ~~for supporting~~ ~~said~~ the developing member, and a developing frame body provided with a developer passing opening for passing therethrough the developer supplied from ~~said~~ the developer supplying opening, and having a joint portion to be joined to ~~said~~ the developer container, and a mounting portion configured and positioned to mount ~~for mounting~~ ~~said~~ the supporting member, the said method comprising:

a supporting member removing step of removing ~~said~~ the supporting member from ~~said~~ the developing frame body;

a developing frame body separating step of separating ~~said~~ the developer container and ~~said~~ the developing frame body from each other in ~~said~~ at the joint portion, and at which at least a portion of ~~said~~ the mounting portion is removed when ~~said~~ the developer container and ~~said~~ the developing frame body are separated from each other;

a sticking step of sticking a seal member ~~for closing~~ on the developer supplying opening provided in the developer container separated at said developing frame body separating step to close the developer supplying opening;

a developer refilling step of refilling the developer containing part provided in the developer container separated at said developing frame body separating step with the developer;

a developing frame body coupling step of coupling ~~said~~ the developer container and the developing frame body separated at said developing frame body separating step together after said sticking step; and

a supporting member attaching step of attaching the supporting member removed at said removing step onto at least one of ~~said~~ the developer container and ~~said~~ the developing frame body by the use of a coupling member after said developing frame body coupling step.

12. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein ~~said~~ the developing frame body is joined to ~~said~~ the developer container ~~in~~ at the joint portion by ultrasonic welding, and at said developing frame body separating step, ~~said~~ the developer container and ~~said~~ the developing frame body are separated from each other by the use of a cutter.

13. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein ~~said~~ the developing frame body is joined to ~~said~~ the developer container ~~in~~ at the joint portion by ultrasonic welding, and at said developing frame body separating step, ~~said~~ the developer container and ~~said~~ the developing frame body are separated from each other by the use of a laser.

14. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein at said supporting member attaching step, ~~said~~ the coupling member is mounted with ~~said~~ the supporting member and ~~said~~ the developing frame body sandwiched thereby.

15. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein at said supporting member attaching step, ~~said~~ the coupling member is mounted with ~~said~~ the supporting member and ~~said~~ the developer container sandwiched thereby.

16. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 14 or 15, wherein ~~said~~ the coupling member is constituted by a U-shaped spring material.

17. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 16, wherein ~~said~~ the coupling member is constituted by a plate spring material.

18. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein ~~said~~ the mounting portion is a boss having a screw hole for attaching ~~said~~ the supporting member by a screw, and at said developing frame body separating step, a portion of ~~said~~ the boss is removed.

19. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein ~~said~~ the supporting member has a driving force transmitting device configured and positioned to transmit ~~means for transmitting~~ a driving force to ~~said~~ the developing member, and at said supporting member removing step, ~~said~~ the supporting member is removed from ~~said~~ the developing frame body while holding ~~said~~ the driving force transmitting device ~~means~~, and at said supporting member attaching step, ~~said~~ the supporting member is attached onto ~~said~~ the developing frame body while holding ~~said~~ the driving force transmitting device ~~means~~.

20. (Currently Amended) A method according to Claim 11, wherein ~~said~~ the supporting member has a developing bias contact configured and positioned to contact ~~for contacting with~~ ~~said~~ the developing member and supplying a voltage to ~~said~~ the developing member, and at said supporting member removing step, ~~said~~ the supporting member is removed from ~~said~~ the

developing frame body while ~~having said~~ holding the developing bias contact, and at said supporting member attaching step, ~~said the~~ supporting member is attached onto ~~said the~~ developing frame body while holding ~~said the~~ developing bias contact.